

## Chapter 8. State Indicators

### 8-3 Fourth Grade Science Performance

#### Description

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This indicator represents the average score in science of each state's fourth grade public school students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP science assessment is a congressionally authorized measure of student performance that is conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics. It measures students' knowledge and skill in science and their ability to apply that knowledge in the content areas of physical, life, and earth and space science. The NAEP assessment in science was updated in 2009 to keep pace with key developments in science. Because it is based on a new framework, 2009 results cannot be compared to those from previous science assessments. Student performance is presented in terms of average scores on a scale from 0 to 300.

Approximately 151,500 fourth grade students in 8,780 schools participated in the 2009 NAEP science assessment. Students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency are allowed to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). All data presented here represent scores from tests taken with accommodations offered.

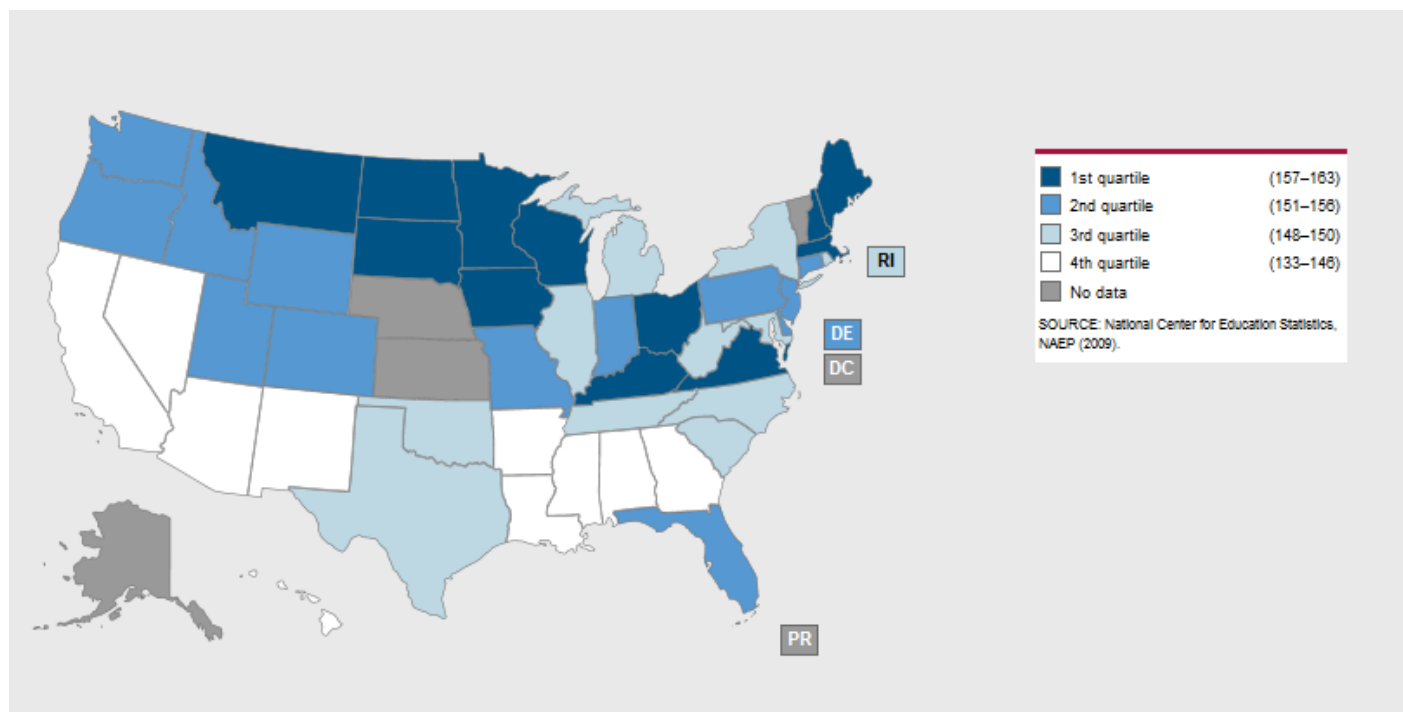
#### Findings

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- In 2009, the nationwide average science score of fourth grade students was 149. Average scores for individual states ranged between 133 and 163.
- Of the 46 states that participated in the 2009 fourth grade science assessment, 24 had scores that were higher than the national average, 12 were clustered around the average, and 10 were lower.
- Nationally, the 2009 average science score for white public school fourth grade students was 162 compared to 127 for black students, a gap of 35 points, and 130 for Hispanic students, a gap of 32 points, based upon racial classifications provided by the schools.

## 8-3 Fourth Grade Science Performance

Year: 2009

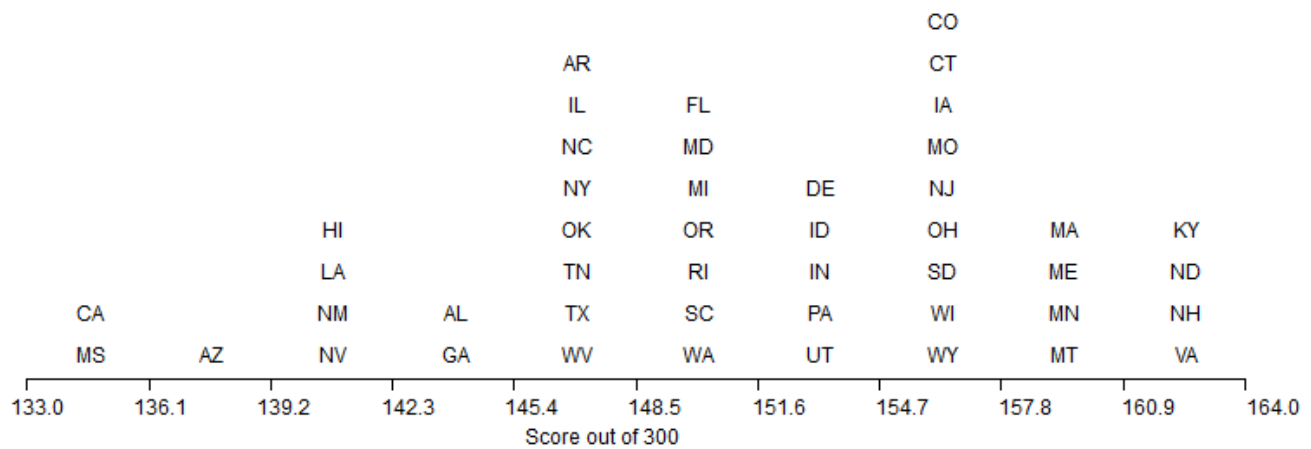


## 8-3 Fourth Grade Science Performance

Year: 2009

### Distribution of states across indicator values

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Histograms do not display states with extreme values. Please consult the data tables for exact indicator values for each state.

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**Table 8-3** Fourth Grade Science Performance

4th grade science performance, all students (Score out of 300)	
State	2009
United States	149
Alabama	143
Alaska	NA
Arizona	138
Arkansas	146
California	136
Colorado	155
Connecticut	156
Delaware	153
District of Columbia	NA
Florida	151
Georgia	144
Hawaii	140
Idaho	154
Illinois	148
Indiana	153
Iowa	157
Kansas	NA
Kentucky	161
Louisiana	141
Maine	160
Maryland	150
Massachusetts	160
Michigan	150
Minnesota	158

4th grade science performance, all students (Score out of 300)	
State	2009
Mississippi	133
Missouri	156
Montana	160
Nebraska	NA
Nevada	141
New Hampshire	163
New Jersey	155
New Mexico	142
New York	148
North Carolina	148
North Dakota	162
Ohio	157
Oklahoma	148
Oregon	151
Pennsylvania	154
Rhode Island	150
South Carolina	149
South Dakota	157
Tennessee	148
Texas	148
Utah	154
Vermont	NA
Virginia	162
Washington	151
West Virginia	148
Wisconsin	157
Wyoming	156
Puerto Rico	NA



4th grade science performance, all students (Score out of 300)

State

2009

NA = not available.

NOTES: The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are for public schools only. The national value for the United States is the reported value in the NAEP reports.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP (2009).

*Science and Engineering Indicators 2016*